



# TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

## MINUTES

West Hartford Advisory Commission

For Persons with Disabilities

May 18, 2015 7-8:30

West Hartford Town Hall, Rm 217

### 1. Meeting Called to Order at 7:04 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

Members Present: Jonathan Slifka, Josh Rucker (Chairperson), Nicholas Delaney, Rebecca Hajosy, Melinda Montovani, Kelley Fournier, Nancy Marchetti, David Siegel, Megan O'Neill,

Members Absent: Michael Haeflich

Others: David Morgana (prospective member 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting), Helen Rubino-Turco (Director of Town Human Services filling in for Susan Huleatt Administrative Liaison-Town Human Services), Joel Rottman (West Hartford Housing Authority)

Quorum: (9/11) Yes

### 3. Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes of Meeting held on March 2, 2015 were approved.

### 4. Review Agenda

### 5. Old Business

- a. Coupling with another agency on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA.
  - i. This is a 2015 objective
  - ii. See Updates under New Business
- b. Snow Removal Ordinance Amendment Recommendation. See Updates under New Business.

### 6. New Business

- a. Presentation by West Hartford Housing Authority ("WHHA") (Joel Rottman)
  - i. Quasi-governmental agency overseen by the Town Counsel.
  - ii. WHHA's goal is to provide affordable and accessible housing.
  - iii. WHHA incorporates the West Hartford Housing Corporation which is the development arm to add to affordable housing to the town.
  - iv. Properties Owned and managed by WHHA

1. Elm Grove Apartments (Elmwood): 40 units Restricted over 62 or disabled. Has, by state code and federal law, 10% ADA accessible units. Wait list currently closed. Average wait 1-2 years (approximate).
  2. Plant Building (Farmington Ave/Whiting Lane): Recently renovated. Restricted over 55 or disabled. 137 Units. Mostly one bedrooms. Wait list currently closed. Average 1-2 year wait (approximate).
  - a. The Goodwin Newington Road: New. 47 Units-32 market rate and 15 income restricted. 6 are ADA accessible units (No roll-in showers provided, but willing to make modifications as required by law, at their expense). Wait List open, but very long.
    - i. Why so large? Only a certain amount of funds available for income restricted units and not feasible to construct smaller solely income restricted unit buildings. Funding is generally more available for buildings with larger quantities of units, which requires market rate units to subsidize construction costs. This is the direction for future public housing in West Hartford.
    - ii. Going market rate for 2 bedrooms (\$1,650) 3 bedrooms (around \$1,850).
  - v. ADA Qualified Units
    1. Generally, 10% of the total units in public housing are ADA accessible.
    2. In public housing, tenants may request a reasonable modification in relation to a disability and the associated costs are paid for by the housing authority. Tenants are generally responsible for the costs associated with a modifications because of a disability in private developments.
    - a. Appears to be less demand for ADA accessible units in private/market rate units.
  - vi. Project Based verses Housing Choice (Portable) Vouchers.
    1. Housing Choice Voucher Program (WHHA Managed): Can be used anywhere. Most funding comes from HUD and is administered by the town. Wait list is currently closed. When opened, usually only opened for a few days and has 18,000+ applicants.
      - a. Person holds the voucher.
      - b. Housing also has vouchers.
      - c. Advising: go to 211.org to see what housing authorities have wait lists.
      - d. WHHA will also advise on other housing opportunities.
    2. Project based vouchers: Attached to the unit so if applicant applies and needs a subsidy they get the subsidy for being in the specific unit.
      - i. Don't have to be a West Hartford resident. Unclear if there is a residency preference.
- b. Snow Removal:

1. Last meeting there was a recommendation to have the West Hartford Sidewalk Ordinance amended to include a fine for leaving or placing snow in accessible parking spots.
  2. A proposed amendment was presented.
    - i. The Commission will review at the next meeting and present any edits to Mark McGovern, Director of Community Services. Any proposed changes to an existing ordinance would likely occur in the Fall.
    - ii. The Commission was informed that Public works may have separate edits and feedback regarding the proposed amendment timeframes and expectations for snow removal at commercial facilities.
    - iii. There was a discussion regarding the current \$79 per infraction fee. Questions were raised as to whether it is per spot or per property and whether it was per day or per incident? Josh will look into this. Should the fine be raised? Members suggested it should be increased to make improve compliance.
- c. Disability access update in the Parks
- i. Fernridge Park: Has no Whitman Street accessible parking or accessibility, but will do a curb cut out and offer curbside parking that is accessible. At least 2 spots.
  - ii. UConn/ Miracle League: 2 accessible restrooms and concessions at UConn Miracle League installed
  - iii. Goodrich soccer complex: 2 accessible restrooms and concessions with curb cutouts.
  - iv. Sterling Field: Curb cutouts on Flatbush with accessible restroom and concession. Sterling does have a path, but Goodrich doesn't.
  - v. Cornerstone: Renovation at Cornerstone pool is under way. Entrance is almost complete.
  - vi. Beachland Park: Is going to have a new accessible driveway up the way, drop off zone and parking and loop. Restroom to be made more accessible also.
  - vii. Eisenhower: Looking at adding an accessible bathroom.
  - viii. Lifts in all pools.
  - ix. Review of accessibility in gyms is needed (ECC, Senior Centers, Cornerstone) . Helen Rubino-Turco will look into further.
- d. 25<sup>th</sup> year of the ADA
- i. Received interest in recognizing 25<sup>th</sup> years since ADA passed (July 26, 2015)
  - ii. Possible Ideas:
    1. Recognition at Celebrate West Hartford
      - a. Really not interested in booth

2. Memorial Day Parade
- iii. Have a \$1,000 grant available from ADACC.
  1. David will forward information on the application and Josh will look into, but will hold off for now.
- e. Accessible Parking: Re-discussed:
  1. Discussion of parking spot located on Farmington Road, in The Center, near Treva is inaccessible. There is a tree blocking the access aisle for vehicles equipped with lifts.
  2. Designated accessible parking spaces at Celebrate West Hartford are uneven and do not provide an access aisle. Helen Rubino-Turco clarified additional parking spaces are available across Burr St and in the Memorial Garage.

7. Next Meeting: June 29, 2015 7:00 p.m. Rm 217

8. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m. (Motion made by Melinda Montovani /Seconded by Nicholas Delaney).

Respectfully Submitted by Rebecca A. Hajosy

**ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO MAY NEED AN ACCOMMODATION TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING SHOULD CONTACT SUSAN HULEATT AT THE HUMAN AND LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 561-7578, FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.**